

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in the present application, and stand rejected pursuant to an Office Action dated March 5, 2003. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 103, Obviousness

A. The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 3, 8, 10, 15 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Ahrens et al. (US 6,230,265 B1) in view of Berglund et al. (US 6,044,411). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Regarding Claims 1, 8 and 15, such claims recite that addresses used when accessing devices contained within said plurality of input/output drawers do not change when reconfiguring at least one of the input/output drawers within the data processing system. None of the cited references teach or suggest this claimed feature, which addresses a problem of system configuration when drawers are inserted, removed or rearranged (Specification page 3, line 17 – page 4, line 1). The Examiner states that this claimed feature is implicit in the teachings of Berglund. Applicants show that to the contrary, Berglund teaches that his addresses are composed using the actual physical locations of its components, in order to enhance the ability to locate the physical location of a device. As described at Berglund Col. 7, lines 12-39, when the system is turned on, the SPCN writes unique physical location addresses into the respective memory, *specifying the associated enclosure and the particular backplane*. The operating system reads the enclosure/backplane physical location address information when building a mapping of logical addresses to physical location addresses (Berglund Col. 7, lines 49-56). Thus, it is shown that since Berglund uses actual physical device location information when constructing its logical address mapping, the addresses used when accessing a device *do change* when the device is reconfigured to be at another physical location, since the physical address used to access the device is comprised of its physical location information which would change when the device is moved to a different physical location. This is in contrast to the claimed invention, where addresses used when accessing devices contained within the drawers do not change when the drawers are reconfigured. It is thus shown that Claims 1, 8 and 15 have claimed features not taught

or suggested by the cited references, and thus are non-obvious in view of the cited references.

Applicants traverse the rejection of dependent Claims 3, 10 and 17 for similar reasons to those given above with respect to independent Claims 1, 8 and 15.

Therefore, the rejection of Claims 1, 3, 8, 10, 15 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 has been overcome.

B. The Examiner rejected Claims 2, 9 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Ahrens et al. (US 6,230,265 B1) in view of Berglund et al. (US 6,044,411) and further in view of Sidhu et al. (US 5,884,322). This rejection is respectfully traversed for similar reasons to those given above regarding Claim 1, 8 and 15.

C. The Examiner rejected Claims 4, 6, 7, 11, 13, 14, 18, 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Ahrens et al. (US 6,230,265 B1) in view of Berglund et al. (US 6,044,411) and Sidhu et al. (US 5,884,322), and further in view of Lortez et al. (US 6,041,364). This rejection is respectfully traversed for similar reasons to those given above regarding Claim 1, 8 and 15.

D. The Examiner rejected Claims 5, 12 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Ahrens et al. (US 6,230,265 B1) in view of Berglund et al. (US 6,044,411) and Sidhu et al. (US 5,884,322), and further in view of Ahrens et al. (US 6,148,419). This rejection is respectfully traversed for similar reasons to those given above regarding Claim 1, 8 and 15.

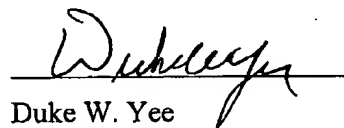
II. Conclusion

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is patentable over the cited references and is now in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the Examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

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Respectfully submitted,



Duke W. Yee
Reg. No. 34,285

Wayne P. Bailey
Reg. No. 34,289
Carstens, Yee & Cahoon, LLP
P.O. Box 802334
Dallas, TX 75380
(972) 367-2001
Attorneys for Applicants